

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-10 EB-11 AID-20 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /210 W

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R 282319Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9720

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS USUN 3515

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJ: ACABQ CHAIRMAN ADDRESSES FIFTH COMMITTEE

REF: USUN 3516

BEGIN SUMMARY: ON SEPTEMBER 28, CHAIRMAN RHODES OF ACABQ SPOKE TO FIFTH COMITE, IMMEDIATELY AFTER SYG. HE CRITICIZED SYG BUDGET PRESENTATION FOR 74/75 AS NOT TRUE PROGRAM BUDGET AND CHIDED SYG FOR LACK OF "SELF-HELP" IN CUTTING EXPENDITURES. RHODES ALSO URGED COMITE TO GIVE ATTENTION TO NEEDED SALARY AND PENSION ADJUSTMENTS.
END SUMMARY

1. CHAIRMAN RHODES OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS (ACABQ) DISCUSSED BROADER BUDGETARY ISSUES AS "PRELUDE TO GENERAL DEBATE". AFTER EXPLAINING DELAYS IN CONSIDERING SECTION 7 WHILE AWAITING REPORT OF CPC, HE SAID REST OF LAST YEAR'S BUDGETARY TIMETABLE WAS MET.

2. RE PROGRAM AND BUDGET SYSTEM, ACABQ SAID 1974/75 PRESENTATION IS ONLY FIRST STEP TOWARDS TRUE PROGRAM BUDGET.
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PROGRAMS ARE VAGUELY DEFINED, SO INPUTS CANNOT BE EXACTLY

RELATED TO OUTPUTS. ASSUMPTION IS THAT ALL EXISTING ACTIVITIES MUST CONTINUE, I.E., NO ATTEMPT AT CRITICAL REVIEW OF EXISTING PROGRAMS. RHODES WELCOMED SYG'S UNDERTAKING TO CORRECT THESE DEFECTS IN NEXT PROGRAM BUDGET.

3. ACABQ RECOMMENDED REDUCTION OF \$12.1 MILLION OUT OF GROSS BUDGET OF \$513.4 MILLION, MOSTLY BY ELIMINATING 223 OF 523 PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO PERMANENT MANNING TABLE AND APPLYING A DELAYED RECRUITMENT FACTOR. IN MEASURING BUDGET GROWTH (WHICH WAS 19 PERCENT FROM 1972/73 TO 1974/75 IN SYG'S BUDGET PROPOSAL) RHODES SAID UN IS SO STAFF-INTENSIVE THAT INCREASE IN NUMBER OF POSTS MAY BE BEST MEASURE OF REAL GROWTH. RHODES CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT INFLATION AND CURRENCY CHANGES ACCOUNT FOR MUCH OF PROPOSED BUDGET INCREASES, ALTHOUGH DOLLAR DEVALUATION APPLIES ONLY TO 40 PERCENT OF BUDGET SPENT OUTSIDE US, PRIMARILY IN GENEVA AND VIENNA. HE PROMISED THAT ACABQ WOULD SOON PRESENT MATERIAL TO FIFTH COMITE RE CURRENCY CHANGES.

4. RHODES SAID ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS DISAPPOINTED TO FIND NO REFERENCE TO "SELF-HELP" IN SYG'S FORWARD TO PROGRAM BUDGET, BUT WELCOMED SYG'S UNDERTAKING TODAY TO EXERCISE "REASONABLE RESTRAINT" IN RECRUITING (SEE REFTEL). HE DISMISSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN AS MERE PROJECTION OF 74/75 PROGRAM BUDGET, BUT ADMITTED SYG HAD LITTLE TIME TO PREPARE IT AND SIMPLY URGED BETTER JOB NEXT TIME. RHODES ALSO URGED THAT IN FORTHCOMING DEBATES, COMMITTEE BEAR IN MIND THAT, INSTEAD OF 24 SECTIONS, PROGRAM BUDGET NOW HAS 37 SECTIONS, THUS REQUIRING "CONCENTRATION ON ESSENTIALS".

5. IN CONCLUSION, RHODES REMINDED COMMITTEE THAT IT HAS SEVERAL IMPORTANT TASKS BESIDES THE PROGRAM BUDGET, SUCH AS PROPOSALS FOR INCORPORATION OF FIVE POST ADJUSTMENTS INTO BASE SALARIES AND FOR ADJUSTING PENSION BENEFITS. HE ALSO MENTIONED WORK ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (ICSC).

6. COPY OF STATEMENT POUCHED TO DEPT. (IO/HENNES).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973USUNN03515
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973092/aaaaaawl.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USUN 3516
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Oct-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <06-Feb-2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACABQ CHAIRMAN ADDRESSES FIFTH COMMITTEE
TAGS: AORG, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005